

HYPOCHAERIS RADICATA L.—In Dr. Britton's recently published "Manual of the Flora of the Northern States and Canada," the habitat of this plant is given as "waste places, Long Island to New Jersey." Last summer it was discovered to be well established in three localities on Staten Island, namely on Todt Hill, near Egbertville, and in the grounds of the S. R. Smith Infirmary. In the last named locality it persists in spite of the mowing machine. An interesting habit of the plant is the closing of its flowers early in the afternoon, even on bright sunny days.

WILLIAM T. DAVIS.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1902

The meeting was held at the Museum of the New York Botanical Garden; seventeen persons present, Dr. MacDougal in the chair.

The first paper was by Dr. Britton, entitled "Notes on the Crassulaceae," and is to appear in print, being a part of a contribution toward the projected Flora of North America. Remarks followed by Dr. C. C. Curtis, Dr. Rydberg, Dr. Small, Dr. MacDougal and Mrs. Britton. The distribution of the Crassulaceae was commented on, Dr. Britton speaking of the isolated colonies of high mountain species, which seem to have continuously interbred and in which this process seems responsible for the development of specific characters.

The second paper, by Professor F. S. Earle, entitled "New Genera of Fungi," founded on representatives from California and New Mexico, will soon appear in the *Bulletin of the New York Botanical Garden*.

Professor Earle also exhibited a rosebush from under glass at the Garden, the roots of which had been attacked by a fungus now under examination. The mycelium is abundant in the fibrous roots, also in the bark and cambium immediately above ground, and has caused a sudden yellowing and drooping of the leaves. The rosebush shown had been artificially infected from cultures of a fungus taken from similarly diseased bushes grown in New Jersey.

Dr. MacDougal recalled the suggestion that potatoes are the result of fungal infection of the underground stem ; it is said that no one has ever examined a potato tuber without finding traces of a fungus in it. In many cases of precocious blooming among both wild and cultivated plants, the cause is stimulus from similar infection.

Dr. MacDougal also exhibited specimens of *Raoulia* and *Haastia*, known as "vegetable sheep," two remarkable alpine xerophytes from an altitude of 4,000 feet on the mountains of New Zealand. They are composites related to *Gnaphalium*.

Dr. Rydberg spoke of a Rocky Mountain phlox with similar growth in cushion-like masses.

Mrs. Britton reported on the progress of her studies of a *Vit-taria* collection made by Dr. Britton at St. Kitts, and exhibited drawings. There is a present indication that two different specific names have been in use for different stages of the same life history.

EDWARD S. BURGESS,
Secretary.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1902

The meeting was held at the College of Pharmacy ; the President, Judge Addison Brown, in the chair ; 37 persons present.

The President presented for distribution to members of the Club copies of Dr. Gattinger's Flora of Tennessee.

Dr. A. J. Grout delivered an address, illustrated by numerous lantern slides, on the botanical features of Mt. Mansfield, Vermont. A general discussion of the distribution of mountain plants followed the address, which was participated in by Dr. Underwood, Dr. Rydberg, Dr. Grout, Mr. Chamberlin, Dr. Murrill and the Secretary *pro tem*.

The following is an abstract of Dr. Grout's paper :

The alpine and subalpine flora of Mt. Mansfield and Smugglers' Notch is of great interest. While Mt. Mansfield (4329 ft.) is not so high as Mt. Washington, and the Notch has not the profile or the flume that have rendered the Franconia Notch historic, yet each has scenic and floral attractions all its own, and but little inferior to those more widely known in the White Mountain region.

The "spring" which wells up a full-grown brook just at the entrance of the Notch with water of icy coldness at all seasons of the year; Bingham Falls a few miles farther down this same brook, with its fantastic gorge and wild cascade; the steep cliffs of the Notch rising thousands of feet on either hand, with their numerous ravines and rich subalpine flora, all have a potent attraction to every one who has visited and seen.

Along these rivulets, by whose wearing action the cliffs have been made possible to man, are found *Dryopteris fragrans*, *Woodsia glabella* and *W. alpina*, *Pellaea gracilis*, *Polystichum Braunii*, *Asplenium viride*, *Blephariglottis grandiflora*, *Saxifraga oppositifolia*, *S. Aizoön* and *S. autumnalis*, *Astragalus Jesupi*, *Hedysarum Americanum*, *Draba incana*, *Arenaria verna*, *Pyrola minor*, *Gentiana acuta*, *Castilleja acuminata*, *Erigeron hyssopifolius*, *Solidago Virgaurea*, vars. and that choicest of beauties and wonders, the insect-eating *Pinguicula vulgaris*.

On the summit of the mountain the scenery is marvelously beautiful, whether one clammers down to the "Lake of the Clouds" on a clear day and looks back at the rugged majestic "Chin" or sits on the western side of the "Nose" at sunset and sees the distant golden glint of Lake Champlain, or rises before dawn and watches the sun drink up the rolling seas of fog.

The summit flora also has its attractions for the botanists; *Polygonum viviparum*, *Comandra livida*, *Viburnum pauciflorum*, *Salix Uva-ursi*, *Vaccinium caespitosum*, *V. uliginosum*, *Vitis-Idaca*, *Nabalus Boottii* and *Diapensia* are some names to conjure one's exchanges with.

And mosses and lichens are very abundant. The speaker has personally collected there two varieties new to North America, and not yet collected elsewhere on the continent, namely, *Hypnum fluitans Atlanticum* Ren. and *Dicranum longifolium subalpinum* Milde.

A comparison of the flora of this region and that of Mt. Washington, brings out the fact that here are several northern plants not found at the loftier elevation of the Mt. Washington region, although the conditions there are more severely alpine and supposedly more favorable. None of the saxifrages mentioned above can be

found in the White Mountain region, but another alpine species, *S. rivularis*, occurs there. This is only one of several similar cases hard to account for, on a theory of a residual flora, as the regions are so near to each other and the conditions are so similar.

N. L. BRITTON,
Secretary pro tem.

NEWS ITEMS

Mr. Elmer D. Merrill has resigned his position as assistant in charge of the agrostological collections of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in order to accept an appointment in the Philippines.

Dr. Valery Havard, Deputy Surgeon General of the United States Army, recently Chief Surgeon of the Division of Cuba, is now stationed at Ft. Monroe, Virginia.

Among the botanists visiting New York of late have been Professor F. A. F. C. Went, of Utrecht, Holland, Professor Conway MacMillan of the University of Minnesota, and Dr. Theodore Holm, of Washington, D. C.

The February number of the *Journal of Botany* announces the death of Mr. Alfred W. Bennett, one of the authors of Bennett and Murray's *Cryptogamic Botany*, and otherwise well known as a botanist.

Two new Memoirs of the Torrey Botanical Club were published in February. "The comparative Embryology of the Rubiaceae," by Francis Ernest Lloyd completes No. 1 (pp. 1-112; pl. 1-15) of Vol. 8; and "The Lejeuneae of the United States and Canada," by Alexander W. Evans, constitutes No. 2 (pp. 113-183; pl. 16-22) of the same volume. "The Life History of *Vittaria lineata*," by E. G. Britton and Alexandrina Taylor, completing Vol. 8, is soon to be published. The price of No. 1, separately, is \$1.75, of No. 2, \$1.00.